

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS REACTION TO ARAB TERRORIST OPERATION IN MADRID

1. SUMMARY: ALL ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS EVALUATE EDITORIALY
TERRORIST ATTACK IN MADRID AND RELATE INCIDENT
TO RECENT ME DEVELOPMENTS. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS
SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS OF ATTACK
ON ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL AND EGYPTIAN-PLO
RELATIONS IN PARTICULAR. SOME PAPERS FIND SATISFACTION
IN THIS OPEN EVIDENCE OF WIDE RIFT WITHIN
ARAB WORLD; OTHERS, HOWEVER, CAUTION AGAINST DRAWING
HASTY CONCLUSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIAL IN YEDIOT AHARONGT ASSERT THAT
TERRORISTS WERE SENT BY SYRIA AND LIBYA AND THAT
USSR "SUPPLIED THE INSPIRATION TO BOTH..." IT CONCLUDES
THAT THE ARAB WORLD IS FACED WITH A REVOLUTION IN
ITS INTERNAL RELATIONS "WHICH MAY HAVE VERY FAR
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REACHING CONSEQUENCES...AND SADAT WILL ONLY DO HIMSELF

A FAVOR IF HE REACTS IMMEDIATELY..."

3. DAVAR EDITORIAL NOTES THAT "AFTER THE UPS AND
DOWNS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CAIRO AND THE PLO
IN RECENT YEARS, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH IN THESE RELATIONS
HAS ARRIVED. THE REPEATED WARNINGS BY ISRAEL--
AND NOT ONLY BY ISRAEL--THAT THE TERRORISTS WILL
SOONER OR LATER ENDANGER THEIR SUPPORTERS HAVE PROVED TO
BE WELL-FOUNDED..." DAVAR CONCLUDES THAT "IF EGYPT WITHSTANDS SUCCESS
FULLY
THIS TEST AND REJECTS ANY FURTHER PROVOCATIONS, IT WILL
CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO DISASSOCIATING ITSELF FROM
THE TERROR CIRCLE AND WILL INCREASE THE STABILITY
AND PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE AREA".

4. EDITORIAL IN HAARETZ ADVOCATES AVOIDING HASTY CONCLUSIONS:
"IT IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF AN OPEN RIFT BETWEEN CAIRO AND THE PLO...
MEDIATORS WILL PLAY THEIR ROLE AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY THIS
QUARREL BETWEEN SADAT AND THE PLO SHOULD NOT BE SETTLED".

5. AL-HAMISHMAR EDITORIAL STRESSES THAT SADAT REALLY TOOK
RISKS WHEN HE AGREED TO SIGN THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH
ISRAEL. "IN THE ARAB WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY AMONG THE
EXTREMISTS, THE AGREEMENT WAS MISINTERPRETED BECAUSE
OF THOSE "WORDS" WHICH ISRAELIS WHO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT
REGARD AS MEANINGLESS. THE FACT THAT EGYPT HAS UNDERTAKEN
NOT TO USE FORCE TO SOLVE THE DISPUTE WITH ISRAEL WAS
INTERPRETED AS THE RENUNCIATION OF WAR AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE
POLITICAL AIMS..." EDITORIAL SPECULATES THAT THE REACTION
OF SADAT AND THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT INDICATES THAT THE INCIDENT
MAY HAVE FAR REACHING REPERCUSSIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD", AND
IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE THAT THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT
HAS DEMANDED THE ANNULMENT OF THE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN
FRIENDSHIP PACT FOR IT WAS THE USSR THAT STARTED
THE INCITEMENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE AGREEMENT..."

6. YEDOT POLITICAL COMMENTATOR GUENY WRITES
THAT, JUDGING BY CAIRO'S REACTION, THE INCIDENT
MAY WELL MARK A TURNING POINT IN EGYPT'S RELATIONS
WITH THE ARAB EXTREMISTS. "IT SEEMS THAT IN INCREASING
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NUMBER OF REGIMES IN THE ARAB WORLD WILL UNDERSTAND
NOW WHAT ISRAEL HAS BEEN ALWAYS CLAIMING: THAT BY
SUPPORTING THE TERRORISTS AGAINST ISRAEL, THEY ARE
ENDANGERING THEIR OWN INTERESTS...MORE THAN THE INTERESTS OF ISRAEL..

ASAD'S DECLARATIONS THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN MAY FIGHT
ISRAEL WITHOUT EGYPT'S HELP INDICATE THAT A
SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA

AND EGYPT HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THAT THERE IS A
SERIOUS POSSIBILITY THAT IF SYRIA ATTACKS IN THE
NORTH, THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS WON'T BE MOVED AT ALL IN THE SOUTH..."
GUNEY MENTIONS ALSO THE WIDENING RIFT BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE USSR
AND CONCLUDES THAT "WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF A NEW, IMPORTANT--
AND MAYBE FAVORABLE--DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB WORLD".
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